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COUNTY OF PEEBLES
AND BURGHS OF
PEEBLES AND INNERLEITHEN

Annual Report

by

THE
Medical Officer of Health

Year 1954



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STAFF

JOINTLY WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL AND SMALL
BURGH AUTHORITIES.

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN RIDDELL, M.D., D.P.H.

Depute Medical Officer of Health :

HAROLD J. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

JOINTLY WITH MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

Assistant Medical Officers :

J. WALLACE GORDON, L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H., L.D.S.

CHARLOTTE E. FORSYTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

JEANETTE B. MORRISON, L.R.C.P., & L.R.C.S. (Edin.), C.P.H.

MARGARET D. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Dental Officer:

ROBERT P. NEILSON, L.D.S.

Assistant Dental Officers

JOSEPH SHEARMAN, L.D.S.

W. P. MACKENZIE, L.D.S.

IAN F. BURNS, L.D.S.

R. W. BRAZENALL, L.D.S.

MISS M. MAC TAGGART, L.D.S.

A. I. MACDONALD, L.D.S.

S. VINESTOCK, L.D.S.

T. McLAREN, L.D.S.

†J. A. G. BAXTER, L.D.S.

County Nursing Superintendent and Supervisor of Midwives :

MISS E. W. HIMSWORTH

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

Milk Officer :

*Miss F. McD. GOODLAD

MISS F. M. WATSON

†*Miss J. M. E. McVICKER

Administrative Assistant :

ROBERT FULTON

Clerks :

MISS J. PATERSON

B. H. MURRAY

MISS J. PEEBLES

MISS A. N. WHYTE

MISS E. MURRAY

MISS J. ANDERSON

MISS E. WILSON

†MISS E. MACDONALD

* Resigned during year.

† Appointed during year.

STAFF—Continued.

PEEBLES COUNTY.

County Sanitary Inspector :

JAS. M. M. FERGUSON.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

WILLIAM A. DUNLOP.

Meat Inspectors (Part time) :

P. J. WILSON, M.R.C.V.S.

W. W. PEGGIE, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitor :

*MISS A. DOULL

*MISS W. M. RAMAGE

†MISS M. C. P. ROSS

Health Visitor—District Nurse Midwives :

MISS M. S. RAMAGE.

MISS C. FORBES.

MISS A. V. STEELE

MISS M. THOMSON.

District Nurse Midwives :

MISS J. C. SUMMERFIELD.

MISS M. F. SNEDDON.

PEEBLES BURGH.

Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

E. S. DUNCAN.

INNERLEITHEN BURGH.

Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

ANDREW FAIRNIE

*Resigned during year.

†Appointed during year.

P R E F A C E

CENSUS 1951.

1954 saw the publication of the figures for the Census taken in 1951. The following details are considered to be of particular interest.

Population.

The population enumerated in the County of Peebles at the census of 1951 was 15,232. This was 181 or 1.2 per cent. more than the number enumerated at the census of 1931, which was 15,051. The population enumerated in the two burghs was 8,374 and in the landward area of the County 6,858. The population enumerated in the small burghs increased by 74 and that enumerated in the landward area by 107.

The population enumerated in the County was greater than the resident population by a margin proportionately more considerable than is usual throughout the rest of Scotland. Out of the total of 15,232 persons enumerated in the County, no less than 986 (including the 279 persons temporarily attending the Broomlee Residential School) were persons whose normal residence was elsewhere in Scotland. On the other hand, the number of persons enumerated elsewhere in Scotland, whose normal place of residence was in the County of Peebles, made up the considerably smaller number of 319. The population enumerated in the county thus exceeded by 667 the resident population, which was accordingly 14,565. In 1931, calculated on the same footing it was 14,608. There was, therefore, very little difference between 1931 and 1951. Indeed, when some conjectural allowance is made for the greater number of persons serving away from home in 1951 in the forces of the Crown, the resident population would in fact be rather greater than it was in 1931.

There were 4,144 births and 3,947 deaths in the county in the 20 years between the censuses of 1931 and 1951. The population thus showed a natural growth of 197, but as the resident population was not very different in 1951 from what it was in 1931 the county appears to have lost most of the natural increase of 197, through an excess of people leaving the area over people coming into it.

The area of the county was 222,240 acres, giving a density of occupation of 7 persons per 100 acres, the same as in 1931. In 1951 the average density in the small burghs was 608 persons per 100 acres compared with 798 in 1931. In the landward area it was 3 persons per 100 acres both in 1931 and in 1951.

The proportion of 115.8 females to every 100 males was lower than in 1931 (120.3), but considerably higher than for Scotland as a whole

(109.4). The proportion of females to males was lowest in the age-group 5-9, where there were 88.2 females to every 100 males. The ratio of females to males at ages 65 and over was 149.5 to 100, compared with the much closer ratio of 115.8 at all ages.

In Innerleithen Burgh the ratio was 119.0, in Peebles Burgh 130.6, and in the landward area 103.0 females for 100 males.

Housing.

Compared with the position at the time of the census of 1931 the number of one-roomed houses in the county fell from 140 or 3.5 per cent. of the occupied private houses in the county to 45 or 1.0 per cent. Two-roomed houses fell from 1,207 or 30.2 per cent. to 860 or 19.7 per cent.

There were 118 households, comprising in all 294 persons or 2.1 per cent. of the total population of the county enumerated in private households, sharing houses. More than half of these households were living in one or two rooms, but it will be remembered that, as has been stated, lodgers having their meals apart are treated as separate households.

13,099 persons or 93.8 per cent. of the population living in private households in the county lived not more than two persons per room per household; 773 or 5.5 per cent. lived more than two but not more than three; and 95 or 0.7 per cent. more than three but not more than four. Further details are given in the Table on page 9.

Household Arrangements.

Definitions. The head of each household was required to indicate whether the household had, had not, or shared each of five conveniences. These conveniences were defined in the census schedule as follows:—

(i) *Piped water supply within the house* means water laid on either from the mains or from a storage tank, if the tap can be reached without leaving the shelter of the building or an attached covered structure. It does *not* include a tap in the open yard or a public standpipe.

(ii) *Cooking stove or range* means any cooking stove, kitchen range or other fixed grate using gas, electricity or any other fuel, provided there is an oven. One or more gas rings, hot plates or portable electric ovens are not by themselves enough to be called a cooking stove or range.

(iii) *Kitchen sink* means a sink inside the building, whether in a kitchen or not, with a drain pipe leading outside the building and normally used for washing up, etc. It need not have water piped to it. It does *not* include a wash basin designed for personal toilet.

(iv) *Water closet* here means a water closet flushed by water, either from a cistern or by hand and emptying into a main sewer, septic tank or cesspool. It does *not* include a chemical closet or earth closet.

(v) *Fixed bath* means a bath permanently installed and connected with a waste pipe leading outside the building. It does not matter for

	County		Peebles		Innerleithen		Landward	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Size of House and Persons per Room—								
1 Room	45	1.0	16	0.9	10	1.4	19	1.1
2 Rooms	860	19.7	343	18.8	172	23.5	345	18.9
3 "	1,420	32.4	620	34.0	263	36.0	537	29.5
4 "	1,067	24.4	459	25.2	156	21.3	452	24.8
5 "	395	9.0	185	10.1	70	9.6	140	7.7
6 "	210	4.8	85	4.7	21	2.9	104	5.7
7 "	136	3.1	49	2.7	19	2.6	68	3.7
8 " and over	243	5.6	66	3.6	20	2.7	157	8.6
All private houses	4,376	100.0	1,823	100.0	731	100.0	1,822	100.0
Houses occupied by more than one household								
	57	—	32	—	15	—	10	—
Households with Persons per Room—								
Not more than 2	4,294	96.9	1,811	97.6	722	96.8	1,761	96.1
Not more than 2-3	124	2.8	40	2.2	20	2.7	64	3.5
Not more than 3-4	15	0.3	4	0.2	4	0.5	7	0.4
More than 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Household Arrangements								
	Shared	None	Shared	None	Shared	None	Shared	None
All conveniences	41	24	26	1	9	—	6	23
Piped water in house	105	111	62	2	27	20	16	89
Cooking stove or range	66	149	33	20	23	48	10	81
Kitchen Sink	86	105	47	2	29	17	10	86
Water Closet	269	94	93	2	118	2	58	90
Fixed Bath	68	1,294	40	546	13	330	15	418

this purpose whether there is water piped to it or whether the room where it is installed is used only as a bathroom or not.

Of the total number of private households in the county, 3,045 (68.6 per cent.) had exclusive use of all five conveniences, 41 (0.9 per cent.) shared all five conveniences and 24 (0.5 per cent.) had none of the conveniences at all. Further details are given in the Table on page 9.

The foregoing shows clearly the leeway that still remained in the provision of good modern houses. Much has been done since the date of the Census, but there obviously is great need for further work particularly on the problem of the house lacking in modern sanitary conveniences.

We must also remember that to give people good houses is not sufficient in itself. To make use of these houses beneficially entails greater responsibility for the householder. The houses must be furnished and maintained. The income of the household must be spent wisely. The children must be brought up in conformity with their surroundings. Certain of our rehoused families find this difficult. It is *our* duty to encourage, to guide, and to assist, where necessary.

Statistics.

This year saw a low infant mortality rate but a slight increase in the stillbirth rate. This exemplifies once more the need for us to concentrate on the health of the mother prior to the birth of the child, so that not only will the child be born alive, but it will be born healthy and with every chance of surviving. 71 per cent. of deaths took place after the age of 64 years and as might be expected in association with this, 65 per cent. of all deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Following the transfer of responsibility for the distribution of welfare foods from the Food Ministry to the local authority at the end of June some adjustments were made to the distribution centres but we were exceedingly fortunate to be able to retain the services of existing voluntary workers and recruit others so that there has been no interruption.

The number of mothers and pre-school children coming forward for dental treatment continues to rise quickly.

The high level of vaccination against smallpox (87 per cent.) and immunisation against diphtheria (82 per cent. pre-school and 95 per cent. school) is being maintained.

Infectious Disease.

There was no noteworthy variation in the incidence of the common infectious diseases during the year.

Tuberculosis.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis continued to show a slight but steady fall. The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit spent

14 half days in the County and five fresh cases were discovered by this means.

Children approaching the school leaving stage were skin tested, the negative reactors being given B.C.G. and the positive reactors being X-rayed. No cases were found. Examination of child contacts of fresh cases also produced no new cases.

Acknowledgments.

The Department has to express its thanks to the County Council, and especially the Health Committee, for their unstinted support during the year, and also to the various officials in the County and Burghs, who gave us much practical assistance.

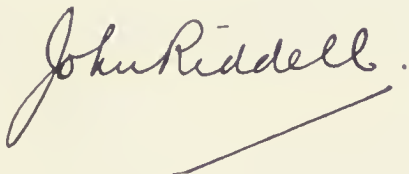
Without the help of the many voluntary workers who so cheerfully give much of their time, our services would be immeasurably poorer, and we would express our appreciation.

Finally I would personally thank all the members of the Health Department staff—clerical, nursing, dental and medical—for the enthusiastic manner in which they have carried out their heavy and exacting duties.

The information under the sections for milk, ice cream, meat and other foods and general sanitation has been supplied by the County Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
10 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,
EDINBURGH, 3.

4th April, 1955.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Riddell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY OF PEEBLES.

VITAL STATISTICS, YEAR 1954.

	Peebles County.	Inner- leithen Burgh.	Peebles Burgh.	Land- ward Area.
Population, Census, 1951	15,226	2,361	6,013	6,852
Population estimated, 1954 (June)....	14,442	2,395	5,742	6,305
Live Births (corrected)	196	26	72	98
Illegitimate Births (corrected)	7	1	4	2
Still Births (corrected)	6	1	2	3
Deaths (corrected)	221	40	106	75
Infantile Deaths (corrected)	4	1	1	2
Marriages Registered	95	12	51	32

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

(Landward and Burghal) per 1,000 of Population.

	1954.	1953.	Scotland*
Birth Rate (corrected)	13·6	15·8	17·6
Death Rate All Causes (corrected)	15·3	13·6	12·0
Death Rate Tuberculosis (corrected)	0·14	0·07	0·15
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births	20·0	22·0	24·0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	30·0	21·0	30·0

* Excluding Large Burghs.

Ages at Death.

Number of Deaths in the various age groups during 1954.

	Peebles County.	Innerleithen Burgh.	Peebles Burgh.	Landward Area.
Under 1	4	1	1	2
1—4	2	1	1	—
5—9	—	—	—	—
10—14	1	—	—	1
15—24	1	—	1	—
25—34	1	—	—	1
35—44	3	—	2	1
45—54	14	4	3	7
55—64	39	4	20	15
65—74	72	14	40	18
75—84	65	10	30	25
85 and over	19	6	8	5
All Ages	221	40	106	75

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths classified according to age groups:—

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total
Congenital Malformation	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	—	2
Suffocation	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	2	—	1	—	1	4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Peebles County	Inner- leithen Burgh	Peebles Burgh	Land- ward
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1	1	—
Tuberculosis other forms	—	—	—	—
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever (including Para-typhoid)	—	—	—	—
Dysentery all forms	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal Sore Throat....	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms	26	6	7	13
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	—	—	—
Diabetes Mellitus	1	—	1	—
Anaemias	—	—	—	—
Other General Diseases	1	1	—	—
Vascular Lesions affecting central Nervous System	37	5	16	16
Non-Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	6	2	2	2
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	—	1	1
Arteriosclerotic and Degenerative Heart Dis- ease	77	12	46	19
Other Diseases of Heart	7	1	4	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	9	1	5	3
Hypertension without Heart Disease	5	—	3	2
Other Circulatory Disease	7	3	1	3
Influenza	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	1	3
Bronchitis	2	—	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1	2	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	—	2	—
Gastritis and Duodenitis	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (except of newborn)	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver....	1	—	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	—	2
Other Diseases of Genito Urinary System	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Sepsis including Post-Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal causes	1	—	1	—
Diseases of Skin and Organs of Locomotion	3	1	2	—
Congenital Malformations	1	1	—	—
Birth Injuries, Post Natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia of the Newborn	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea of the Newborn	—	—	—	—
Other Infections of the Newborn	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	2	—	—	2
Senility	2	1	1	—
Cause ill-defined and unknown	2	1	—	1
Suicide	3	—	3	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	—	1
Other Road Transport Accidents	—	—	—	—
Other Violence	6	1	5	—
All Causes	221	40	106	75

A.—LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS.

I.—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Nursing Establishment.

The Centres and duties of nurses are as follows:—

Area.	No.		Mid-wifery.	Duties.			Cars
		of Nurses.		Home Nursing.	Health Visiting.	School Nursing.	
West Linton	1					1
Broughton	1	"	"	"	"	1
Innerleithen	1	"	"	"	"	—
Walkerburn	1	"	"	"	"	—
Peebles	2	"	"	—	—	1
Peebles	1	—	—	"	"	1

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

No such Clinics are held in the County.

Child Welfare Clinics.

(a) The following Clinics were provided by the Local Authority:—

PEEBLES.—In Hay Lodge on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

INNERLEITHEN.—In the Reading Room of the Liberal Club on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

WEST LINTON.—In the Community Centre on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

BROUGHTON.—In the Clinic, Nurse's Cottage, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

	Peebles	Inner-leithen	West Linton	Broughton
Openings during year	51	24	20	3
Average number in attendance per Clinic	19	30	4	4
(a) Number of children attending—				
1. Under one year	72	50	15	8
2. Over one year	128	42	18	4
(b) Total number of attendances of children—				
1. Under one year	494	449	47	8
2. Over one year	481	263	33	4

(b) No Clinics were provided by Voluntary Bodies.

National Dried Milk and Vitamin Supplements.

National Dried Milk and Vitamin preparations are distributed by the Health Visitors and at the following Centres:—

PEEBLES—Eastgate Hall—Thursday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m. Child Welfare Clinic—Tuesday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

INNERLEITHEN—Child Welfare Clinic—2nd and 4th Thursday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

WALKERBURN—Public School—Alternate Thursday, 2.30 p.m.—4 p.m.

WEST LINTON—District Council Office—each Tuesday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

BROUGHTON—Nurse's Cottage—Each Wednesday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

STOBO—Post Office—Daily.

TRAQUAIR—Post Office—Daily.

Vitamin preparations only are available from:—

DRUMELZIER MILL—Daily.

Following on the transfer of functions from the Ministry of Food, the Local Authority took over responsibility for the distribution of National Dried Milk and Vitamin Supplements as from the end of June. Fortunately all the voluntary workers who had given their time so generously to this purpose for many years, agreed to "carry on." Without their help we would have been in a very difficult position and we are correspondingly indebted to them. The average weekly uptake in the County up to 31st December, 1954 was:—

National Dried Milk	104 tins	Cod Liver Oil	34 bottles
A. & D.	263 tablets	Orange Juice	147 bottles

Special Treatment Centres.

No mothers were given special treatment during the year.

(1) Teeth.

REPORT BY MR R. P. NEILSON, L.D.S.

Pre-School Children

It is very gratifying once again to report another record year for dental inspection and treatment of pre-school children. Parents obviously appreciate this service, for every child referred for treatment by the dental officer actually received it under the County Scheme. One hundred per cent. acceptance rate for pre-school children is a highly creditable but very unusual phenomenon. It must be remembered that only a small proportion of the "under fives" attend as "toothaches" and that most of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ year olds are now included as routine age groups.

Many of the Peeblesshire parents are obviously becoming more dentally conscious and it is hoped that the time presently devoted to treatment of toddlers will considerably reduce the amount of treatment per child among future school entrants.

Full details of inspection and treatment are set out hereunder:—

Centre	Inspection.				Number Referred for Treatment			
	Number Examined				Treatment			
	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Total	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Total
Peebles High School	9	26	50	85	8	23	48	79
Mobile Dental Unit	10	30	37	77	8	22	30	60
West Linton	—	5	11	16	—	1	10	11
	19	61	98	178	16	46	88	150

Treatment							
First Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	150
Second Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	61
Attendances	....	....	....	....	....	....	343
Fillings ...	....	....	....	....	....	....	88
Extractions	....	....	....	....	....	....	157
Local Anaesthetics	....	....	....	....	....	....	157
General Anaesthetics	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Silver Nitrate (Howes)	....	....	....	....	....	....	202
Cavities Lined before Filling	....	....	....	....	....	....	88
Teeth Trimmed	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Prophylactic Cleaning	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Dressings	....	....	....	....	....	....	83

Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

The growing popularity of this section of the service is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the inspection and treatment figures recorded in 1953 have been doubled in 1954.

Details of inspection and treatment are set out hereunder:—

Inspection

Centre	Number Examined		Number Referred for Treatment		Number Treated Privately		No. of Cases carried forward from 1953
	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	
Peebles High School ...	6	15	6	15	—	—	7
Mobile Dental Unit ...	3	7	3	7	—	—	—
West Linton ...	1	2	1	2	—	—	—
	10	24	10	24	—	—	7

Treatment

Number of First Visits (a) Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	....	10
(b) Post-natal	....	....	....	....	....	24
Number of Second Visits	....	....	....	....	....	24
Number of Attendances	....	....	....	....	....	131
Fillings	....	....	....	....	....	66
Extractions	....	....	....	....	....	109
Local Anaesthetics	....	....	....	....	....	86
Silver Nitrate (Howes)	....	....	....	....	....	20
Cavities Lined before Filling	....	....	....	....	....	58
Teeth Trimmed	....	....	....	....	....	3
Scalings	....	....	....	....	....	7
Cleaning	....	....	....	....	....	4
Dressings	....	....	....	....	....	26
Denture Work—						
Impressions	....	....	....	....	....	48
Bites Taken	....	....	....	....	....	8
Try In	....	....	....	....	....	9
Dentures Fitted	....	....	....	....	....	14
Dentures Ease	....	....	....	....	....	5
*Sessions devoted to Inspection and Treatment	....	....	....	....	....	50

*This figure includes the time devoted to all pre-school work because, both mothers and pre-school children are for reasons of economy, intermixed when undergoing treatment at Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Clinics. It is, therefore, quite impossible to estimate the time devoted to the respective groups. The “session” situation has now become even more complex as a result of “continuation afternoon treatment sessions” at Peebles High School, held after school hours, whereby the dental officer is enabled to keep pre-arranged appointments with patients at the Clinic, after he finishes work in the Mobile Dental Unit. The dental officer’s time is thus utilised to the full. Such an arrangement can only operate when the dental caravan is within a reasonable distance of Peebles High School Clinic.

(2) Eyes.

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN REFERRED FOR VISUAL DEFECT.

Cases Referred	Atten- ded Clinic	Left District	Own Oculist	Refused Examin- ation	Glasses pre- scribed	No Glasses prescribed
25	24	1	—	—	9	15

- (3) **Ear, Nose and Throat**—Intimation was received from the Hospital Board that 23 pre-school children had tonsils and adenoids removed.
- (4) **Other Ailments**—No information available as to children treated.
- (5) **Ultra-Violet Light Treatment**—No children treated.
- (6) **Orthopaedic**—One pre-school child was admitted to Princes Margaret Rose Hospital.
- (7) **Speech**—One pre-school child was referred to the Speech Therapist.

Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes.

There are no such Homes in the County.

Mother and Baby Homes.

There are no such Homes in the County, any cases being cared for by the Joint Children's Committee.

Midfield House, Lasswade.

			Under 2 years			2 to 4 years			5 to 14 years			Total			
			+ M.	E.	P.	M.	E.	P.	M.	E.	P.	M.	E.	P.	
Children in Home at 31/12/53			5	2	—	8	—	—	33	1	—	46	3	—
Admitted during 1954			12	6	1	10	—	—	4	4	—	26	10	1
Died during 1954			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Discharged during 1954			13	7	1	6	—	—	6	1	—	25	8	1
Remaining in Home at 31/12/54			4	1	—	12	—	—	31	4	—	47	5	—

+ M=Midlothian. E=East Lothian. P=Peeblesshire.

Tenterfield, Haddington.

		Under 2 years			2 to 4 years			5 to 14 years			Total		
		+ M.	E.	P.	M.	E.	P.	M.	E.	P.	M.	E.	P.
Children in Home at 31/12/53	....	—	—	—	3	2	—	10	12	—	13	14	—
Admitted during 1954	....	2	2	—	5	2	—	12	5	—	19	9	—
Died during 1954	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Discharged during 1954	....	2	2	—	5	1	—	10	5	—	17	8	—
Remaining in Home at 31/12/54	....	—	—	—	3	3	—	12	12	—	15	15	—

+ M=Midlothian. E=East Lothian. P=Peeblesshire.

II.—Midwifery Service.

- (i) Total number of births occurring in the area during year—that is before correction for mother's residence:
Live Births, 156; Still Births, 3. Total 159.
- (ii) Total number of births in (i) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes), 130 (including 3 still births).
- (iii) Total number of births in (i) occurring at home, 29 (including 1 set of twins).
- (iv) Number of births in (iii) classified to show nature of attendance at birth :—

Cases dealt with under Section 23 (2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947								Other domiciliary cases	
		Doctor engaged and present at confinement	Doctor engaged and not present at confinement	Mid- wife alone (no doctor engag- ed)	Doctor and Mid- wife engag- ed	Midwife alone (no doctor engag- ed)	Without doctor or mid- wife	Total	
I. Midwives Employed by									
(a) Local Authority	....	18	7	—	—	*1	**1	†27	
(b) Voluntary Organisations	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Hospital Boards of Management	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
II. Private pract. midwives	....	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
III. Totals	....	18	7	—	1	1	1	†28	
*Unbooked Case.		**Unbooked Case B.B.A.			†One twin confinement.				

Domiciliary Cases.

	1954.	1953.
Number of confinements—		
(a) At Home	27	21
(b) In Hospital	4	8
Cases removed to Hospital because of—		
(a) Home conditions	1	—
(b) Medical Emergency	4	8
Malpresentation 2, Toxaemia 2.		
Percentage of confinements conducted by midwife alone	33%	33%
Percentage of domiciliary bookings admitted to hospital for medical reasons	13%	28%
Number of Anæsthetists called in	—	—
Number of Consultants called in	1	—
Number of Maternity Outfits issued	27	16

The average number of weeks during which the patients were under observation was (a) confinements at home, 16 (b) cases removed to hospital, 13.

Medical Aid under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1951.

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1951, by a Midwife:—

(a) For Domiciliary Cases—	
(i) Where the midwife was acting alone	—
(ii) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide maternity medical services under the National Health Service	—
(b) For Cases in Institutions	—

Administration of Analgesics.

(a) Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer Analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland:—	
(i) Domiciliary	6
(ii) In Institutions	—
(b) Number of domiciliary midwives who received training during the year	—
(c) Number of Sets of Apparatus in use at 31st December, 1954	1
(d) Number on order at 31st December, 1954	—
(e) Number of cases in which Midwives in domiciliary practice during the year administered—	
(a) Gas and Air	Dr present
	Dr absent
(b) Pethidine	Dr present
	Dr absent

III.—Health Visiting—Domiciliary Visits.

	Number Visited during year.	Total Visits.
Expectant Mothers	1	3
Infants	361	2,174
Children (1-5 years)	725	2,118
Cases of Tuberculosis	45	310
Domestic Help		762
School Health Service—Follow-up work—		
Cleanliness		133
Medical		105
Dental		77
Vision		48
Others		58
Cases visited at request of general practitioner		—
Cases visited at request of hospital organisation		—

IV.—Home Nursing.

- (i) Number of cases attended by home nurses under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority under Section 25 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 (276 over 65 years of age) ... 625
- (ii) Number of visits paid by nurses to these cases (9,721 to persons over 65 years of age) ... 14,683

V.—Domestic Help.

- (i) No. of Domestic Helps employed at end of year
- (a) whole-time ... 12
- (b) part-time ... —
- (c) Retaining fee basis ... —
- (ii) No. of cases for which Helps were provided during year ... 54
- (iii) No. of cases in (ii) provided on account of confinement:—
- (a) at home ... 3
- (b) in hospital ... —
- (iv) No. of cases in (ii) provided on account of chronic sickness including age and infirmity ... 51
- (v) Average period of assistance ... 21 weeks
- All domestic helps are X-rayed before appointment.

VI.—Vaccination and Immunisation.

Smallpox Vaccination.

	Under 5 years.	5-14 years.	Over 14 years.
Number Vaccinated during 1954—			
Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day	172	3	—
Accelerated Reaction 5th-7th day	2	—	—
Greatest Reaction 2nd-3rd day	—	—	—
No Local Reaction	—	—	—
Total	174	3	—
Number Re-Vaccinated during 1954—			
Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day	—	—	40
Accelerated Reaction 5th-7th day	1	1	5
Greatest Reaction 2nd-3rd day	—	5	13
No Local Reaction	—	—	4
Total	1	6	62

Percentage Vaccinated of those resident in County at end of 1954 ... 87 ... 86

224 Records (156 primary and 68 re-vaccinations) were returned by General Practitioners.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	Under 5 years.	5-14 years.	Over 14 years.
Number immunised during 1954	206	15	—
Number given maintenance injection during 1954....	118	87	—
Number of confirmed cases of diphtheria in 1954	—	—	—
Number of deaths from diphtheria in 1954	—	—	—
Percentage immunised of those resident in County at end of 1954	1-4 years 82	95	

Records for 295 children were returned by General Practitioners.
(187 primary and 108 "booster" injections)

Tuberculosis Vaccination with B.C.G.

During 1954 this service was continued for all pre-school and school children who were contacts of known cases of tuberculosis.

The following table sets out these skin tests, B.C.G. vaccinations and x-ray results by age and sex.

Age Group (years)	Under 1		1 and under 5		5 and under 10		10 and under 15		15 and under 20		Totals by sex		Total
Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Positive Skin Test	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	2
Negative Skin Test	1	1	4	1	2	1	3	1	—	—	10	4	14

Positive Reactors x-rayed and found—

Clear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Healed lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Active lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not yet x-rayed 31/12/54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Negative Reactors—

Given B.C.G.	1	3	4	1	2	1	3	1	—	—	10	6	*16
Awaiting B.C.G. 31/12/54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*2 babies were given B.C.G. without skin testing.

School Leavers.

The parents of all children born in 1940 were asked to give their consent to skin test, with B.C.G. vaccination of negative reactors and X-ray of positive reactors. In 95.8% of cases, the parents gave full consent, under 1% gave consent for X-ray only, and there were 3.5% refusals.

The positive reactors and skin test absentees were X-rayed at special sessions at the schools. No cases of respiratory tuberculosis were found.

No. skin tested			Refusals			Positive Reactors			X-rayed		
M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both	M	F	Both
64	60	124	3	2	5	18	14	32	22	20	42

91 children who had B.C.G. were retested six weeks later and showed 100% conversion.

In addition to this, all children given B.C.G. prior to 1/1/53 were listed, and as far as possible, tested, in order to estimate what percentage had reverted to a negative reaction. This gave the following results.

	Males	Females
Number tested	12	17
Number not traced	15	12
Positive to O.T. 1/1000	12	12
Positive to O.T. 1/100	—	2
Negative to Old Tuberculin	—	1
Tested 1/1000 and not read	—	2
Refusals	—	—
Percentage still Mantoux +ve	100	94.1

VII.—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

Tuberculosis.

The trend of notifications since 1935 is shown in the following table:—

	1935- 1939 Av.	1940- 1944 Av.	1945- 1949 Av.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
Respiratory	6	11	17	18	12	14	10	9
Non-Respiratory	5	6	7	4	2	4	3	2
Total	11	17	24	22	14	18	13	11

All the notifications were confirmed so that the actual total of cases for the year shows an increasing fall.

Mass Radiography.

The mass radiography unit visited Peeblesshire for 14 half days during 1954. The results were as follows:—

Mass Radiography

	Number X-rayed		Cases Found		Cases under Observation	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
General Public	504	808	—	2	2	—
Teachers	34	61	—	—	—	—
Education Staff—Ancillary ...	5	37	—	—	—	—
Pupils*	46	31	—	—	—	—
Factories	507	525	1	2	2	—
Total	1096	1462	1	4	4	—

*The discrepancy between this table and that for school leavers is due to the inclusion of all Castlecraig children in the above.

Number of Persons Resident in the County at 31st December, 1954, who were known to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

By Area	Confirmed in 1954.		Total known Cases in Area.	
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory
Landward	5	1	22	5
Peebles	1	—	22	9
Innerleithen ...	3	1	18	2
Total	9	2	62	16

By Age Groups			5	15	25	35	45	55	65	
Age Group			and	and	and	and	and	and	and	Total
(in years)			Under	under	under	under	under	under	up-	
			5	15	25	35	45	55	65	wards
Respiratory.										
Confirmed 1954	M.	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
	F.	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	6
Total in County 31/12/54	M.	—	2	2	13	2	7	6	3	35
	F.	—	1	5	13	2	6	—	—	27
Non-Respiratory.										
Confirmed 1954	M.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total in County 31/12/54.	M.	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	2	7
	F.	1	2	—	2	—	1	1	2	9

Particulars of persons who died from Tuberculosis in the County during the Year.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Number of persons who died from tuberculosis	1	1	—	—
Of whom—				
Not notified or notified only at or after death	—	—	—	—
Notified less than one month before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death	—	—	—	—
Notified over 2 years before death	1	1	—	—
Number who died within 28 days after discharge from an institution	—	—	—	—
Number who died more than 28 days after discharge from an institution	—	—	—	—

Sanatoria.

Sanatoria.				In Sanatoria on 1st Jan. 1954	Admitted during 1954	Discharged or died during 1954	In Sanatoria on 31st Dec. 1954
East Fortune Hospital.							
Males	....	....	....	3	3	3	3
Females	....	....	....	4	7	5	6
Children	....	....	....	2	2	2	2
Other Hospitals.							
Males	....	....	....	1	—	1	—
Females	....	....	....	—	1	—	1
Children	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
				TOTAL.			
Males	....	....	....	4	3	4	3
Females	....	....	....	4	8	5	7
Children	....	....	....	2	2	2	2
				10	13	11	12

There were no cases on the Waiting List at the end of year.

Housing.

	Overcrowded tuberculosis families				
	At December 1953		Rehoused during 1954	At December 1954	
	Resp.	Non-Resp.		Resp.	Non-Resp.
Peebles Landward	1	—	—	2	—
Peebles Burgh	2	1	—	2	2
Innerleithen Burgh	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	1	—	4	2

In Peebles Burgh the two non-respiratory cases are unwilling to move. Two shelters are available if suitable cases arise.

Epileptics and Spastics.

Reliable information in regard to the numbers of adults suffering from epilepsy is not available and at the present moment there is only one known case among children and young persons up to 18 years of age. The case is not severe and the child in question is under treatment by the family doctor and attends school regularly. Should any case be brought to the notice of this Department, where education and treatment at the Colony for Epileptics, Bridge of Weir, would be considered suitable, arrangements could be made for admission. Co-ordination with the Local Welfare Services is satisfactory.

As with epileptics, no reliable figures are available in regard to the number of adults suffering from Cerebral Palsy. There are at present four cases reported among children and young persons, (one of these being a child at Castlecraig Residential School). Where possible, cases may be seen at Westerlea School for Spastics, and arrangements made for suitable cases to be admitted. In cases where the level of intelligence is such that they are not considered suitable for Westerlea, but where orthopaedic intervention may be required, treatment is arranged at Princess Margaret Rose Hospital or Peel Hospital. Co-operation with the Welfare Services is satisfactory.

Convalescent Home Provision.

There are no convalescent homes in the County.

Chiropody.

A chiropody scheme under the aegis of the Peeblesshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society was started in Innerleithen in January and in Peebles in June. The persons eligible for the service are women over 60 years and men over 65 years, the charge made being 1/- per visit. The scheme includes a certain amount of domiciliary treatment for housebound cases, and many others are provided with special transport to bring them to the treatment centre. The number of patients treated and treatments given during the year were as follows:—

	Cases			Treatments
Innerleithen	36	90
Peebles	118	120

This is a striking example of the most valuable work which can be done by voluntary organisations. The old folk benefit to an almost unbelievable extent.

VIII.—Infectious Diseases.

The following confirmed cases occurred during the year:—

		Land- ward Area	Peebles Burgh.	Inner- leithen Burgh.	Total 1954	Cases not admitted to Hospital	Total 1953
Dysentery	....	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia (not other- wise notifiable)	....	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (Acute Pri- mary)	....	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	....	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	....	15	13	12	40	12	31
Whooping Cough	....	23	2	2	27	26	90
Total	....	38	15	14	67	38	127

10 cases were admitted to the City Hospital, 18 to Galashiels Hospital and 1 to Irvine Hospital.

Venereal Diseases.

Patients attend for consultation and treatment at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, where they may be admitted to special wards for in-treatment if necessary.

Examination of specimens is carried out at the Infirmary Laboratory.

Medical Practitioners in the County are supplied with the necessary outfits for taking specimens, which are sent to the Clinical Pathologist, Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Cases Attending Centre.

	S.	G.	SS.	N.S.D.	Nil.	Total	Grand	Attend-	Approx.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	Total	ances.	No. Still
1954	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	5
1953	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	6

	1954.			1953.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total
Admissions to Hospital	6	1	7	6	—	6
Number of days in Hospital	53	38	91	32	—	32

IX.—Mental Health Service.

No special arrangements exist in the County in connection with mental disability in the pre-certification stages. It is hoped that at a reasonably early date facilities will be available for psychiatric examination of both adults and children.

There is no information available in regard to the numbers of cases in which Care and After-Care were provided by the Hospital Service.

No reliable information is available in regard to mental health cases outwith hospital.

The following is the position in regard to mental deficiency:—

Children 1-16 years of age at home or at special Residential School	
1.Q.—50	10
(Includes 4 children in Garvald House, Dolphinton)	
Children 1-16 years of age in attendance at ordinary school 1.Q.—	
(50-70). (No special school or classes are provided in this area)	6
All ages in institutions	11
Awaiting admission to institution (adults—not included above)	2

The number of cases treated in Rosslynlee Hospital during the year was as follows:—

	Male	Female
In Hospital at 31/12/53	14	19
Admitted during 1954	5	4
Discharged „ „	3	1
Died	—	3
Remaining at 31/12/54	16	19

One male lunatic was boarded out with a private guardian.

Full particulars of administration and work undertaken were given in the report for the year ending 31st December, 1952. There have been no significant changes in these arrangements since that date.

X.—Children's Acts.

Children Act, 1948.

Children on Infant Protection Register at 31st Dec., 1954	26
Children from Peeblesshire boarded-out in Peeblesshire	1
„ „ „ boarded-out in other areas	2
„ „ „ in Homes in Peeblesshire	—
„ „ „ in Homes in other areas	3
Children from other areas boarded-out in Peeblesshire	3

Adoption Act, 1950.

Number of adoptions arranged by Local Authority	1
Number of children supervised under Part III. following notices—	
under (a) Sec. 2 (6)	5
(b) Sec. 31	—

Nurseries and Child-Minders Regulation Act, 1948.

There were no applications received during the year either for registration of premises or child-minders.

B.—SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The Report on School Health Services is issued separately.

C.—FOOD SUPPLY.

I.—Milk.

(a) No. of registered milk producers—Certified	4
Tuberculin Tested	62
Ordinary	2
(b) No. of retail purveyors of milk	24
(c) No. of producers and wholesale dealers who do not sell milk by retail	56

(d) Approximate average number of cows in registered premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
(e) No. of dairies exempt from registration, if known	....							92
(f) Approximate average number of cows, if known, in premises exempt from registration	....	....	....					2

The number of samples taken during the year was as follows:—

A. At Farms.

Certified 18	Tuberculin Tested 457		Ordinary 32		Total 513			
Certified—								
Original Samples	15	Satisfactory	....	14	Unsatisfactory	....	1
Repeat Samples	1	„	....	1	„	....	—
Investigation Samples	—	„	—	„	—
Licence Application Samples	2	„	....	2	„	....	—
Tuberculin Tested—								
Original Samples	366	Satisfactory	....	328	Unsatisfactory	....	38
Repeat Samples	48	„	....	35	„	....	13
Investigation Samples	43	„	....	29	„	....	14
Licence Application Samples	—	„	—	„	—
Ordinary—								
Original Samples	6	Satisfactory	....	5	Unsatisfactory	....	1
Investigation Samples	9	„	....	9	„	....	—
Licence Application Samples	17	„	....	13	„	....	4

B. At Schools—

No. of Schools	....	19	No. of Suppliers	2	
No. of Samples	....	66	Satisfactory	....	49
			Unsatisfactory	....	17

C. At Dairy Shops—

No. of Shops	7						
No. of Samples	67	Satisfactory	55	Unsatisfactory	12

D. Resazurin Samples	113	Satisfactory	110	Unsatisfactory	3
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E. Butter-Fat Samples—

No. of Samples	53	Satisfactory	52	Unsatisfactory	1
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F. Biological Samples (Undesignated Producers)—Nil.

“Ordinary” herds were all “attested.”

The Resazurin Tests are carried out in a small milk laboratory installed and equipped in the County Buildings instead of the samples being sent to Edinburgh. Samples for Bacteriological purposes continue to go to the University Laboratory.

“Certified” Producers.

No. of Licences at 1st January, 1954 = 3
at 31st December, 1954 = 4

The four “Certified” Licences in existence at 31st December, 1953, were reduced to three as one producer gave up farming at that date; the designated licensee was therefore cancelled. One producer qualified for and was granted a “Certified” Licence, this being a change from “Tuberculin Tested” to “Certified.” Since obtaining

the "Certified" licence, this producer had not been actively engaged in producing Certified Milk and the milk has been sampled as "Tuberculin Tested." One other holder of a "Certified" licence gave up bottling at the end of May and this milk is also being sampled as "Tuberculin Tested." Results obtained from producers have been very satisfactory, one producer having only one failure.

"Tuberculin Tested" Producers.

No. of Licences at 1st January, 1954 = 57
at 31st December, 1954 = 62

One "Tuberculin Tested" Licence, included in 58 at 31st December, 1953, was cancelled at the turn of the year following the death of the producer and subsequent sale of the farm, dairying being discontinued. During the year one "Tuberculin Tested" producer qualified for "Certified" licence and four "Ordinary" producers qualified for "Tuberculin Tested" licences. One farm changed hands and the new owner qualified for a "Tuberculin Tested" licence. One new dairy farm was registered and has qualified for a "Tuberculin Tested" licence. Samples taken from thirty producers have been consistently good. Since obtaining "Tuberculin Tested" licences four of the new producers have had consistent results. Fifteen producers have had fairly satisfactory results—one failure each. Thirteen producers have had inconsistent results—more than one failure. In one case failures were consecutive on three occasions, the circumstances being such that consideration as to the suspension of the licence was felt to be unjustified. One producer had a very bad record of five intermittent failures. Two producers had four failures. Two producers had the assistance of the advisory service of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture in detecting the cause of persistent failures.

"Ungraded" Producers.

No. of Licences at 1st January, 1954 = 8
at 31st December, 1954 = 2

Four producers were granted "Tuberculin Tested" licences. Two licences were withdrawn—one due to the farm changing hands and the other ceasing to produce milk for sale. Each producer had at least one bacterial count taken on his supply and all but one were satisfactory. No samples were subjected to a biological test for B. Tuberculosis.

Schools.

Sixty-six samples were taken from 19 schools throughout the County, including the Burghs. Of these forty-nine were satisfactory and seventeen unsatisfactory. During the period to 30th September, 1954, seven retailers supplied the schools. Of seventeen unsatisfactory samples taken up to this date, two were from one producer and fifteen from another. The other five suppliers had consistently good results. Since 1st October, 1954, the schools have been supplied with "Tuberculin Tested" milk entirely from two distributors and all samples since that date have been satisfactory.

Dairy Shops.

Seven shops and fourteen producer-retailers in the County area, also three dealers outwith the County area are licenced to supply milk by retail to customers throughout the County or Burghs. Three shops are supplied with bottled milk ("Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" and "Certified") from two creameries. Sixty-seven samples were taken throughout the year. Fifty-five were satisfactory and twelve unsatisfactory. Two shops supplied by one distributor had consistently good samples, as was the case in one other dairy, a fourth shop had good samples of "Pasteurised" milk but had one failure in each of the "Tuberculin Tested" and "Certified" categories. One dairy shop and one producer-retailer each had one failure; two remaining dairy shops had three failures each.

Food and Drug Samples.

Forty-four test samples of milk were taken. All results were found to be genuine. Seven formal samples were taken during delivery. All were found to be genuine.

General.

A special survey of the conditions of dairy farm premises and of milk production methods was undertaken during the latter part of 1954. all milk producing premises in the County being visited. Conditions and methods were found to be satisfactory in a large proportion of those surveyed but the opportunity was taken to notify those licencees where less satisfactory conditions and/or methods were observed. The co-operation of proprietors and licencees has been received in these cases and a number of improvements have been carried out including, for example, improved boilerhouse arrangements and alterations in both byre and dairy buildings. A further survey of a similar nature is contemplated early in 1955.

II.—Ice Cream.

The following is a note of the position at the end of 1954.

1. Registration.	Manufacturer -Retailer	Retailer only
(a) Number of certificates of registration in force at 1st January, 1954	7	14
(b) Number of applications for registration considered during 1954, including those carried over from 1953	—	—
(i) Number granted	—	—
(ii) Number refused	—	—
(iii) Number withdrawn by applicant	—	—
(iv) Number still not disposed of at 31/12/54	—	—
(c) Number of certificates of registration cancelled during 1954	—	—

2. Appeals to Sheriff.					Manufacturer -Retailer	Retailer only
(a) Number of appeals lodged during 1954 by applicants for registration	....	....	....	....	—	—
(b) Number of (i) Dismissed	....	....	....	....	—	—
(ii) Sustained	....	....	....	....	—	—
(iii) Not yet determined	....	....	....	....	—	—
3. Unregistered.						
(Wrapped ice cream only)	....	....	....	....	—	22
4. Registered by Other Local Authorities.						
(Distributors of ready-made ice cream—either wrapped or in containers)	....	....	....	....	—	10
5. Sampling to 31st December, 1953.						
Bacteriological—					Wrapped	Unwrapped
Number of samples taken (satisfactory)	....	....	....	....	37	17
(unsatisfactory)	....	....	....	....	—	3
Chemical—						
Number of samples taken (satisfactory)	....	....	....	....	—	6
(unsatisfactory)	....	....	....	....	—	—

III.—Meat and Other Foods.

Routine sampling of food supplies under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 and the P.H. (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regs. (Scot.) was carried out during the year. 33 official and 90 test samples were taken, 1 official sample being non-genuine. 12 cwts. approximately of food were condemned during the year.

Slaughtering operations were conducted in the Public Slaughterhouse in Peebles Burgh and in Broughton Slaughterhouse.

Peebles						
	No. of animals			No. with	No. with	Wt. in lbs.
	slaughtered	condemned wholly	condemned partially	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	of meat and offals condemned
Cattle	686	10	206	13	3	6,939
Calves	258	2	1	—	—	176
Sheep	2,804	32	549	—	—	4,203
Pigs	653	2	265	6	—	1115
Horses	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of visits made by Detention Officers	....	....	....	....	....	262
No. of visits made by Veterinary Inspectors	....	....	....	....	....	104

Broughton						
	No. of animals			No. with	No. with	Wt. in lbs.
	slaughtered	condemned wholly	condemned partially	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	of meat and offals condemned
Sheep	46,670	76	5,722	—	—	15,449
No. of visits made by Detention Officers	....	....	....	....	....	124
No. of visits made by Veterinary Inspectors	....	....	....	....	....	94

The Slaughterhouses are kept in a satisfactory condition.

IV.—Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

V.— Nutrition.

No special action was taken during the year. The nutrition of the community as a whole continued to be satisfactory.

D.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Welfare of Blind Persons.

Ascertainment and supervision of blind persons is carried out by the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland Society for Teaching the Blind to Read at their Own Homes.

Age Group (years)	0-4	5-15	16-29	30-39	40-49	50-69	70+	Total
Registered in 1954	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	1	—	—	2	3
Total on Register	M.	—	—	—	1	2	3	5
at 31/12/54	F.	—	1	1	1	2	5	8

The blind girl under 16 years of age is mentally normal and is in attendance at the Blind Institution.

Two male adults are employed in workshops in Institutions for the Blind, and one female adult outwith a Blind Institution. Another female adult is undergoing professional training.

Aged and Infirm.

Ambulant cases can be admitted to Eildon View Home, Galashiels. The following Table gives details of the Peeblesshire cases treated during the year:—

	Men	Women	Total
In residence at 31st December, 1953	3	3	6
Total number of admissions	4	2	6
Total number of discharges	3	2	5
Total number of deaths	—	—	—
In residence at 31st December, 1954	4	3	7
Number of beds occupied—			
(a) Average during year	....	....	7
(b) Highest	....	....	8
(c) Lowest	....	....	6

Hospitals.

1. General.

General cases are admitted to the War Memorial Hospital which has seventeen beds for this purpose.

2. Infectious Disease.

Infectious disease cases from the eastern part of the County are taken to Galashiels Infectious Diseases Hospital, and those from the west to the City Hospital, Edinburgh.

3. Chronic Sick.

These are admitted to Kingsland Hospital, Peebles, which has twenty beds.

4. Sanatoria.

There are no sanatoria in the County, cases of tuberculosis now being admitted to East Fortune Hospital.

5. Maternity.

Cases are admitted principally to the War Memorial Hospital, Peebles, which has eleven maternity beds.

6. Children.

There are no such Homes or Hospitals in the County.

7. Convalescent Homes.

There are no such Homes in the County.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

There are two Registered Nursing Homes in the County. They have a maximum capacity of eight patients and are well conducted.

Ambulance Facilities.

There are two ambulances in the County, one being stationed in Peebles Burgh and the other at West Linton.

Health Education.

In association with the Scottish Council for Health Education films were shown and talks given to children attending seven of the County schools. A course of lectures on Home Nursing was given by one of the District Nursing Sisters and talks on Nursing and First Aid by two of the others. Two talks were given by the Dental Officers to Women's Organisations on Preventive Dentistry for Children.

E.—GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supplies

Supervision of public water supplies throughout the County continues to be a function for which the County Sanitary Inspector is responsible and, during the year under report, progress can be reported on the 1953 position. On 10th May, 1954, after a prolonged period of testing, the County Council took over from the Contractor the length of water main, amounting to approximately 10 miles, which had been laid as part of the West Linton and Newlands District Water Scheme. Work proceeded during the year on the enlargement of filters and clean water storage tanks at Wakefield, West Linton, which are required to enable the new scheme to work satisfactorily and, though it is disappointing that the new filters were not

in actual operation at the end of the year, that point had almost been reached when severe winter conditions occasioned the suspension of further work. Since 10th May, however, it has been found possible to make a fair number of connections to the new main of properties which would otherwise have been short of a domestic water supply and active consideration was being given at the end of the year to arrangements which will result in this supply being extended to farm and estate premises, particularly at the north end of the main. Difficulty was encountered towards the end of the year on account of the new main freezing at several points where the main passes over streams by the use of pipe bridges. It thus became necessary to arrange for the protection and insulation of the water pipe at the points in question and work to this end was in progress as the year ended.

Difficulty was also experienced at Walkerburn where it became evident that the filter arrangements at the intake had broken down. After considerable effort and expense, caused by the rather inaccessible site of the filter, the filter was completely excavated, the filtering medium washed and approximately 50 tons of new filter sand installed. The opportunity was also taken to renew the supply intakes both at Priesthope and on the subsidiary Kirna supply. This work resulted in improvements to the supply though observations on the amount of water being consumed in the district indicate that enlargement of the filter capacity and of the clear water storage tank will be required in the near future.

The installation of master meters on all County systems was undertaken and completed during the year. These meters, together with the use of a flow recorder (obtained by obligation from the Burgh of Innerleithen) have enabled observations to be made of overnight flows on public supplies for which the County Council is responsible. It thus became apparent that leakages were occurring on all systems and steps were taken to locate these by various waste detection methods with the effect that the waste of water previously detected was eliminated in a number of instances. In this way it was also possible to obtain records of consumption throughout the County, accurate information in respect of which had not previously been available.

The policy of overcoming waste of water is continuing though it will be appreciated that this entails a good deal of evening and night work, together with patient routine checking of all piping systems affected.

In addition to the exceptional items mentioned above, routine duties were continued in respect of the quarterly reading of over forty meters, the general supervision of all the County supplies including repair of burst main and communication pipes, scouring mains and clearing chokages and dealing with the day to day problems associated with any water system. Routine samples were secured from all public water supplies in the County for chemical and bacteriological examination. Results obtained are reasonably satisfactory though less satisfactory results were noted on several occasions in the Brough-

ton Area, where the supply consists of connections at various points to the Talla Aqueduct; as the water is "raw" at this point (filtration for supplies consumed in Edinburgh being carried out at Alnwickhill and Fairmilehead, Edinburgh), B.Coli could be demonstrated in as small a quantity of water as 0.4 c.cs. The presence of B.Coli, however, so demonstrated, need not be alarming in itself, as it is merely an indication of potential contamination. The watershed from which the supply is gathered is well supervised and it would be impracticable, on account of the relatively large number of individual points where connections are made to the main, to devise a filtration scheme at one particular point.

Samples continue to be taken from private supplies, on request, and advice given on the suitability of improvements proposed for supplies of this nature. One particular instance of this type of advisory service occurred in the northern part of the County, where it was possible to negotiate a voluntary agreement to maintain a private supply, the responsibility for which was shared by six separate proprietors.

Drainage and Sewage Works.

Considerable attention was required during the year to many of the private drainage schemes referred to in the 1953 report. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the unsatisfactory conditions, arising from septic tanks which require to be cleaned out, necessitate the provision of a system whereby such septic tanks can be emptied by mechanical means and, in the not far distant future, consideration must be given to the provision of a special purpose tank and pump mounted on a motor chassis as a basis for a suitable service which will be able to deal, by a fee paying agreement, with the necessity for annual or bi-annual emptying of septic tanks.

It became necessary, during the course of the year, to enlarge the capacity of the septic tank which serves the Horsburgh Ford Housing Scheme as a larger number of houses have now been built than was originally intended. The opportunity was taken to apply the principles of design recommended by the Ministry of Health, a two compartment tank being provided by installing a second tank adjacent to that already existing. The efficiency of this new tank is being kept under observation. The septic tank serving the village of Skirling was found to be entirely full and thus unable to carry out its original function. Emptying the contents of this tank was a laborious and costly process, but the work carried out, which included alterations to the inlet and outlet pipes, has proved satisfactory. Alterations to provide a surface drainage system for a new farm steading at Blythbank, and road improvements contemplated at Romanno Bridge, revealed the inadequacy of the existing septic tanks at Mountaincross and Romanno Bridge respectively; both these drainage systems are privately maintained and negotiations are in progress to secure the agreement, on a sharing basis, of the proprietors concerned to schemes which will provide tanks of adequate size.

Rivers Pollution.

The year 1954 was an important one in relation to the Local Authority's control of Rivers Purification in respect that the Tweed River Purification Board came into existence and the "appointed day" for the operation of Part III. of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) (Scotland) Act, 1951, was fixed by the Secretary of State for Scotland as 1st October, 1954, from which date the County Council ceased to be the Rivers Pollution Authority. Contact has been established with the Board's Inspector who is now conversant with the extent of the Council's problems so far as they relate to the duties for which his Board is now responsible. Prior to the "appointed day," discoloration of Eddleston Water had been observed which was found, on examination, to arise from the discharge of the effluents from sand washing processes carried out by two sand and gravel companies. Analyses of samples secured both of the effluents and of Eddleston Water during periods when the stream was discoloured proved the discoloration to be of a category which could not be dealt with in terms of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876. The Tweed Purification Board has the conditions under observation.

Public Cleansing.

The County Cleansing Service continued to perform its useful function in 1954, no major difficulties being encountered. Scheduled visits for refuse collection were maintained throughout the year and these have become a routine feature in the community, so much so that, on the rare occasions when it becomes necessary to omit certain visits, the public are not slow to enquire the reason. Every effort is made by the staff to maintain a regular collection in spite of, at times, difficult working conditions. The waste paper market has improved and I am pleased to report that 26½ tons of paper have been sold during the year, realising the sum of £175. The cleansing service employees continue to be able to cope with all necessary vehicle maintenance and repair in the Council's own depot and, in this respect, as in all other aspects of their work, the staff have co-operated to a marked degree.

Pest Destruction.

The Council's arrangements for pest destruction continue to provide a useful service, though now on a somewhat reduced scale. The gross rat infestations previously frequently encountered now appear to be becoming something of a rarity, possibly on account of the effective means of rodent control now available in modern poisons.

I regret to record the death, at the end of March, 1954, after a long illness, of Mr H. Edward, formerly the Council's Rodent Operator. Mr Edward had given the Council seven years of faithful and able service and his cheerful and obliging disposition was frequently commented upon by those with whom he came in contact. Mr Francis Paterson commenced duty as Rodent Operator on 26th April, 1954, on an experimental part-time basis.

General.

The County Sanitary Inspector's staff remains as was reported for the year 1953 and I am pleased to report the continued loyal and wholehearted co-operation of all concerned.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections.

					Land- ward	Peebles Burgh	Inner- leithen Burgh	Total
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities—								
(a) Number	....	....	....	....	—	45	7	52
(b) Inspections	....	....	....	....	—	45	10	55
(c) Written Notices	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
(d) Prosecutions	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced—								
(a) Number	....	....	....	....	15	36	23	74
(b) Inspections	....	....	....	....	9	36	31	76
(c) Written Notices	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
(d) Prosecutions	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced—								
(a) Number	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
(b) Inspections	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—

Defects.

(a) Found	....	....	....	....	—	4	—	4
(b) Remedied	....	....	....	....	—	4	—	4
(c) Referred to H.M. Inspector	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
(d) Referred by H.M. Inspector	—	3	—	3
(e) Prosecutions	—	—	—	—

Outwork.

Number of Outworkers	17	—	—	17
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Housing.

Area			Uninhabitable houses closed during year and tenants re-housed		Houses built and occupied during year	
				Local Authority		Private
Landward	....	....	3	18		4
Peebles Burgh	....	....	3	—		6
Innerleithen Burgh	....	....	—	6		2

The housing survey of all houses in the Landward Area of the County carried out in 1951-52 has proved to be valuable as a means of ascertaining the categories and degree of unfitness of all houses surveyed. This was particularly the case when the County Council

was called upon by the Secretary of State to submit proposals for the exercise of its function in terms of Part I. of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954. A Sub-Committee of the Council was able to visit approximately 100 houses which had been listed as sub-standard following the housing survey, and preparations are well in hand for the submission of the Council's proposals in terms of the Act early in 1955.

The number of applications received during the year, requesting Improvement Grants in terms of Part VII. of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, was 12, relating to 13 houses. Each case was separately considered and offers of grant were approved amounting to £4,226.

Reconditioning proposals by the County Council, formulated in 1952, were partially completed during the year in respect of the conversion of the property known as "The Castle" (Hall Street, Walkerburn). This conversion has resulted in the provision of six modernly equipped 2 apartment houses which have been the subject of favourable comment both by the tenants of the houses in question and by visiting authorities. Similar proposals are in hand for the conversion of other properties in Hall Street and Galashiels Road, Walkerburn, which will be completed, it is hoped, during 1955.

Thirty-one applications, in terms of County Building Byelaws, for approval of alterations and improvements to existing, and of the erection of new dwellings, were received and reported upon during the year. The proposals related mainly to the provision of improved sanitary accommodation, additional living accommodation and, in some cases, the reconstruction of properties. Eighteen local authority houses, and four privately built houses, were erected and occupied during 1954. Three houses were closed as unfit during the year; only one family was rehoused in a County Council house as the former tenants of the other two houses found alternative private accommodation. The number of houses becoming available as a result of conversion was eight—six in the case at Walkerburn referred to above and two as a result of the private sub-division of what was formerly one two-storey dwelling.

During the year in question the County Council decided to adopt the new Model Building Byelaws for Counties issued by the Department of Health for Scotland. The general effect of these Byelaws, which will come into operation during 1955, is to include within their scope the erection or alteration of all types of buildings (as distinct from houses only as at present) and to specify in extended detail the application of those factors affecting structural safety, fire precautions and other standards for houses, including resistance to the transmission of heat and sound. It is anticipated that the application of these new Byelaws will entail considerably greater scrutiny of proposals, and consideration of the application of the new standards, both by architects and the officials of local authorities concerned, but it is felt that the new Byelaws represent an improvement on the existing code.

